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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Giuseppe Molteni, et al. §  
International Application No. §  
PCT/EP2004/051491 §  
International Filing Date: 14 July 2004 §  
Earliest Priority Date: 17 July 2003 §  
Title: Enzymatic Depolymerisation §  
of Carboxymethylcellulose In §  
Hydroalcoholic Solutions §  
§ Attorney Docket No.: LSP-1018-US

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENTS**

Sir: Please make the specified amendments add the following new claims and proceed with the national examination procedures under 35 USC 3.71.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 6 of this paper.